

Listing of Claims:

Claims 1-23 (canceled)

24. (New) A code reader to read a code from a card-shaped data recording medium on which data is recorded as an optically readable code, said code reader comprising:

an image pickup section configured to pick up the code;

5 a slit guide section configured to specify a positional relationship between the image pickup section and the code, and to serve as a guide for the card-shaped data recording medium when the recording medium is inserted into the slit guide section and moved in a side direction;

10 a code detection section configured to set a code detection area in an image pickup screen obtained by the image pickup section, and to detect at least part of the code from inside of the code detection area; and

15 a restoration section configured to specify the code from the image pickup screen based on a detection position of said at least part of the code detected by the code detection section, and to restore the data recorded in the code;

20 wherein the code detection section sets a second code detection area used to detect a latter part of the code that is narrower than a first code detection area used to detect a beginning part of the code as the recording medium is moved.

25. (New) The code reader according to claim 24,
wherein:

a non-interference area to prevent presence of only an
interference image having an attribute causing an error during
5 reading of the code is set to be wider on one of an upper side
and a lower side of the code than on the other of the upper side
and lower side of the code; and

the code detection section starts detection of the code from
the wider side of the non-interference area.

26. (New) The code reader according to claim 24,
wherein:

the code comprises a plurality of blocks;

each of the blocks comprises:

5 a data area containing data pieces obtained by dividing
the data recorded in the code;

a marker region containing a marker for identifying the
blocks; and

10 a block ID area containing block ID information for
independently identifying the blocks;

the data area, the marker region and the block ID area are
arranged according to a specified position relationship;

said at least part of the code detected by the code detection section is the marker; and

15 the restoration section specifies the code from the image pick up screen in units of blocks and restores the divided data pieces.

. 27. (New) A card-shaped data recording medium comprising:
a portion which records visually readable images; and
a portion which records data as an optically readable code along a given cut side;

5 wherein a non interference area is provided around the code to inhibit presence of only an interference image, out of the visually readable images, having an attribute causing an error during reading of the code; and

10 wherein the non-interference area has a longer width between the code and the cut side than a width between the code and the visually readable image arranged adjacent to the code.

28. (New) The card-shaped data recording medium according to claim 27, wherein the visually readable images include at least one of a character, a symbol, a figure, a pattern, and a photo.